

IN POETIC NORMANDY.

A Study of Peasant Life in France's Fairest Province.

The Valley of the Mayenne—The Market Place at Mortain—The Gendarme—Vagaries of the Village Drummer—Memories of Happy Days.

(Special Paris Letter.)

I had decided to spend the day at Mortain, and, as no railroad connects Sept-Forges with the little town, I was as far as daybreak so as to be in readiness for the first diligence that left for Mortain. I secured a comfortable seat and the old omnibus soon rattled away along the pretty country roads.

On my right sat a priest with his triangle hat and in full canonicals. He was a short, jolly-looking person, with a homely but agreeable cast of countenance and an eye which expressed frankness and good nature. On the seat opposite was a Parisian commercial traveler.

And as we were driven along I could admire the rich Normandy soil and its beautiful hills covered with bright green woods and separated by valleys, which spread and narrowed and divided themselves into branches in the most fantastic and picturesque manner. When we first caught sight of the river Mayenne we commanded a view of its glittering waters in the woody valley below. The upper part of this valley was as green as the fresh young grass of spring could make it, and sprinkled with the early wild flowers of the year in all their beauty and fragrance. Small, spreading trees interspersed with aspens and poplars whose leaves twinkled in the sun clustered together, as it were, in small tufts, dotted its surface; and the turf, like the "green, smooth-shaven lawn" of Milton, sloped down with inexpressible softness to the silver waters of the Mayenne. Words, however, can give but a faint idea of a scene like this, and even the pencil, powerful as it is in reproducing the glories of the earth, would fail to catch all the charms of the spot, which partly arose out of accessories—remoteness from human dwellings and the songs of the birds, and the perfumed breath of spring which filled the bosom with delight and thrilled like a magic influence through the frame.

The time flew by rapidly and, after a few hours spent in conversation with the commercial traveler and the priest and in admiration of the beautiful scenery, we were safely deposited about midday before a quaint old *auberge*, or inn, on the market place of Mortain.

The market was being held in a large open space surrounded on all sides by

The peasants soon left the dining-room to return to the market place and attend to their business. I remained alone with the old drummer whose interesting features excited my curiosity and attention to no small degree.

He was short and rather stout, with a determined look about him. To a stranger he would appear, at first glance, a hard-hearted, uncouth individual, but as I approached him and made a few commonplace remarks on the lovely weather, the beauty of the scenery and the market place, I soon found that I was in presence of a real Norman type of an old soldier, spending his last days in the seclusion of his native village. He was wearing a white blouse which seemed almost scorched by the sun. With his white mustache and imperial his features reminded me of some of the old soldiers I had met in Paris in the Invalides where the remains of the great Napoleon are now interred. When he had finished his coffee and taken a sip of cognac he looked round to see that his drum had not been removed. I soon learned that he had no relatives, except some children of a distant cousin whom he was wont to call his nephews and his nieces. So the village drum was his best friend! Jules Malot, feeling that his conversation pleased me, drew his chair nearer



GOING TO MARKET.

to mine, and, lighting a pipe, prepared himself for a chat. I called for another cognac for him and poured myself out a second glass of a most delicious cider. Then Malot went on to tell me what a pleasant life he was leading. He was the village drummer—the *tambour de la villa*—and after more than thirty years spent in the ranks, he had retired on a small pension hardly sufficient to live upon. But he had been the Mortain *tambour* for several years, and whenever an announcement was to be made it was Malot who walked through the village roads and lanes followed by the children who would look up at him as a god. One day he would cry out the loss of a purse, on the morrow he would inform the population of the arrival of a dentist who could extract teeth at a charge of twenty sous, or else of a boot-maker who could sell shoes and *sabots* at some ridiculously low figure.

"Ah! business is good," he said, "but how I regret the past time, for you must know that I was at Sebastopol and at Solferino—ah! did not we make the enemy run—and I was in Paris during the siege." And, lifting up his blouse, he showed me the medal of Queen Victoria, which many French soldiers gained in Crimea.

"I was a drummer of the line, and when I think of my old days, why, it makes tears flow from my eyes!" And he went on to tell me how brave drummers are. "In an attack they are obliged by the rules to remain behind the columns and beat the charge. But how often did we rush pell mell in the different companies against the enemy, and more than once a drummer was first in the trenches of our foes."

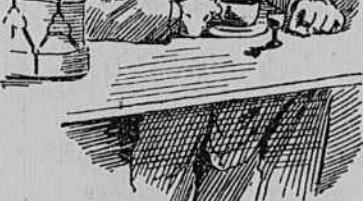
"Some people think that the drum is quite a modern instrument, but, monsieur, it was invented—so they say, for I have not read any books on the subject—in the fourteenth century, and when the English took Calais, Froissart speaks of the drummers in his chronicles."

"Oh! yes," I replied, laughingly, "why, there is a mystical legend which says that drums were beaten to prevent Saturn hearing baby Jupiter cry."

He smiled and thought perhaps I was joking.

I shook hands with the good fellow. He emptied his glass to my health and bade me *adieu*.

I could not help thinking that a man so full of *brav* would make a grand subject for a writer of the romantic



THE VILLAGE DRUMMER OF MORTAIN.

school, whilst the realistic author could not fail to admire his energetic sprightliness and his *chic*.

As I left he heaved a loud sigh. Talking of the past had awakened in his breast memories of times gone by. Like Othello, his occupation seemed gone.

• • • O! farewell!
Farewell, the neighing steed and the shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum • • •
Farewell!

FREDERIC MAYER.

Lacked Opportunity.

"Do you ever weary of your beautiful home here in town, Mrs. De-Cashly?"

"Never, Mrs. Bronson. What with our autumn home at Lenox, our winter home at Asheville, our summer cottage at Newport, and the spring in London, I hardly have a chance to grow tired of it."—Harper's Bazar.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Advertisements in this column will repay perusal.

A. L. FUQUA, ROANOKE, VA.
Gas-fitting, steam-heating, Scientific Sanitary Plumbing, Boilers, Ranges and Hot Air Furnaces.
The latest appliances and most Expert Workmanship.

The plumbing, gas-fitting and steam heating in Hotel Roanoke, J. C. Rawps, A. S. Ashberry's, Marshall's Cafe and other fine buildings in Roanoke, done by us, are offered as references.

Estimates furnished from architects' plans for work at any point in Southwest Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley.

A. L. FUQUA,
111 Commerce street,
Roanoke, Va.

THE ROANOKE TRANSFER Company is prepared to do all kinds of hauling. They keep good wagons, good teams and responsible drivers. Prompt attention. Offices, Freight depot and Jefferson street, south. Telephone, 119.
oct1-1-yr

"ROANOKE STICKERS."

Can be had at THE TIMES office.

1,000 \$.50	10,000 \$ 3.75
3,000 1.25	25,000 8.50
5,000 2.00	50,000 15.00

Stick them on your letters.
Stick them on the wall.
Stick them everywhere and help advertise the town.
They are the same as the "cars" on the first page of THE TIMES.

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT your home or at our studio by flash light or by daylight. Development, printing and supplies for amateurs—blue printing. THE ROANOKE STUDIO, 120 Salem avenue.
my13-6m

WE THANK OUR PATRONS FOR their past patronage and hope to continue our business relations with them in the future. LOOKABILL'S PRINTING HOUSE. In the center of attraction. Roanoke, Va.
sp17-1-yr

NICE LODGING ROOMS, \$5 AND \$7 Railroad avenue, (up stairs). Rooms 25 to 50c per night. Front and back entrance. Prompt and polite attention.
S. A. COMPERT.
Fine saloons on first floor, No. 35 (Tugle's old stand).
Restaurant No. 23 Railroad avenue.
dec16-6mo

J. PETERS & BROS.'S SALOON,
Corner Seventh and Kimball avenues.

Fine Wines, liquors and cigars. Nice reception room for parties.
Call and see us. Just what you want and good treatment.
dec13-6m

WALSACK'S NEW PLACE.—E. Walsack, the expert dyer and cleaner, has opened a new place at the corner of Commerce and Campbell streets, and invites his old patrons and the public to call and see him.
Suits cleaned for \$1.50.
Suits dyed for \$2.00.
Goods called for and delivered. Satisfaction guaranteed. nov29-6mo

PEAK & CO.,
Private Collecting Agency.
Times Building, 113 Henry st., Roanoke.
Masonic Building, Church street, Lynchburg.
Special attention to claims of merchants, doctors, business and professional men generally. No charge unless a collection is made. dec1-1mo

WILKINSON'S MEAT MARKET AND DAIRY.

Fresh meats, the best and cheapest, at Wilkinson's, Stall 1, City Market. Low prices. Free delivery.
Leave orders at Wilkinson's, Stall 1, City Market, for fresh milk, cream and butter. Low prices. Free delivery.
nov7-1-yr

FREDERICK J. AMWEG, C. E.,
M. Am Soc. C. E. & Engr's Club of Philadelphia, engineer, contractor and builder, Commercial Bank Building, Roanoke, Va.
apr22-1-yr

NATIONAL BUSINESS COLLEGE, OF ROANOKE.

Having been transferred to the undersigned, would respectfully invite an investigation of its merits before going elsewhere. A thorough business course, shorthand (Ben Pitman and New Rapid systems), typewriting, English and business and ornamental penmanship. A thorough training school for young men and young ladies who wish to fit for the active duties of the business world. For terms, day or night session, call at the College, Times building, or address J. F. COZART, Manager of the National Business College, Roanoke, Va.

MUSIC.

MISS ALICE APPLETON, OF THE New England Conservatory of Music, is now prepared to give vocal lessons at her residence, cor. Second ave. and Ninth street.
dec10-1-yr

ONE-CENT-A-WORD COLUMN.

Persons at a distance desiring to insert advertisements in the One-Cent-A-Word column can count the number of words, reckon at the rate of one cent a word for each of the first two insertions and half a cent a word for each subsequent insertion, and remit accordingly.

ANSWER BULLETIN.

THERE are letters at THE TIMES office addressed to "Boarder," "C. D. E.," "Commercial and General Information Agency," "G. H.," "L. R.," "Western" and "Zine."

WANTED—HELP.

WANTED—A FIRST-CLASS baker at Hotel Roanoke. jan21-2t

WANTED—A LIVE AGENT TO introduce a novelty to business men only. Will sell on sight. Call on C. C. FARRINGTON, corner Seventh avenue and Henry street. jan21-3t

WANTED—LIVE ENERGETIC young men as canvassers. Apply room 19, Moomaw building, Jefferson street, or write Box 314, postoffice. jan15-1w

WANTED—A BOY 16 OR 17 YEARS old with common school education to take a business course or short hand and typewriting, for cleaning the rooms of the National Business College. Call at college between 4 and 6 p. m. J. F. COZART. jan5-1t

WANTED—MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED.—PARTY WITH \$1,000 to join advertiser in manufacturing business. Contracts already secured for output of plant at profitable figures. No competition and the business an assured success. Excellent opportunity for a safe and remunerative investment. Address OPPORTUNITY, care TIMES office. jan21-3t

WANTED—GENTLEMEN'S MENDING to do at home. MRS. HAYCOCK, 202 Third avenue n.e. jan15-1w

WANTED ROOM AND TABLE boarders at 320 Campbell street. jan20-1t

WANTED—EVERYBODY TO know that Millard McLaughlin, who bought the liveries of Miller and Whaling & Co., is prepared with finest lines of hacks and teams in city to attend weddings, operas, Germans and funerals. Fine saddle horses and complete livery turnouts. Robertson street adjoining Whaling's sale stables. jan15-1t

MRS. S. B. WILLIAMS, VOCAL and instrumental music. Music room on Roanoke street, next to old Baptist Church. Address care Ponce de Leon Hotel. jan17-3taw-1t

SOPRANO WANTED—FOR PAID choir. Address, "L. R." TIMES office. jan14-1w

SIDELINGER, photographer, 301 Jefferson.

B. F. DU BOIS & SON'S.
WATCH CLUB ACCOUNTS must be closed at once or suit will be brought. For particulars see their agents, HARTSOOK & ADDISON, renters and collectors, 108 Jefferson street. jan10-1m.

BOARDING.

BOARDERS WANTED—FIRST class board with home comforts at reasonable rates. MRS. HACKETT, 24 Third avenue n. e. jan14-1t

TABLE BOARDERS WANTED AT MRS. TATE'S, corner Seventh avenue and Henry street. Excellent fare. Terms moderate. jan10-1t

TABLE BOARDERS AND ROOMERS wanted by Mrs. T. D. CRAWFORD, 405 Campbell street s. w. nov22-1t

FOR SALE.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OUTFIT—I HAVE for sale the complete photographic outfit of the late W. L. Smith, of Bedford City, Va. For particulars apply to D. H. SMITH, Vinton, Va. jan21-1w

FOR SALE IN GORDON LAND CO., Gordonsville, Va., 9½ lots and 9½ shares of stock. A bargain. T. S. BURELL, Avis, Va. jan15-1w

FOR SALE—A FIRST-CLASS CONfectionery and fruit stand in good location; will sell cheap. Address, "X. Y. Z." TIMES office. jan12-30ds

THE STUDEBAKER FARM WAGON. For sale by HUGHES & CAMP. dec8-1t

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—TWO BRIGHT FRONT rooms with board. No. 810 Jefferson street. Mrs. W. T. PATTON. dec27-1t

DESIRABLE ROOMS, FIRST floor, suitable for housekeeping. No. 515 Eighth avenue s. w. jan14-1wk

FOR RENT—ONE 7-ROOM HOUSE, bath-room and pantries, Third avenue n. w., near Second street, \$30 per month. Apply to C. B. BELL, Office Pocahontas Coal Company. jan14-1wk

FOR RENT—ROOMS UNFURNISHED suitable for sleeping rooms, light housekeeping or offices. BROOKS, Photographer, next to Post Office. jan10-1t

15 NEW 5-ROOM HOUSES, \$11; 15 new 3-room houses, \$8; in West End, opposite Norwich Lock Company's works. 1 10-room house, No. 610 Henry street, with modern conveniences, \$40. 1 8-room house, Henry street, corner Fifth avenue, \$30. See list of houses for rent. HARTSOOK & ADDISON, 108 Jefferson street.

LARGE PLEASANT ROOMS, CENTRALLY located. 24 Sixth avenue s. w. jan14-1mo

FOR RENT—WITH BOARD; TWO nice rooms. Apply 350 First avenue s. w. nov6-1t

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—THE NEW STORE—room opposite postoffice, Campbell street, fitted up ready for occupancy, \$80; 15 new five-room houses, \$11; 15 new three-room houses, \$8, Cleveland avenue, West End, near Norwich Lock Company Works. See HARTSOOK & ADDISON, Renters, No. 108 Jefferson street.

ROOMS FOR RENT—FURNISHED, at 702, Salem avenue. jan10-2wks

FOR RENT—THE ROOM ON CAMPbell street nearly opposite P. O., formerly occupied by L. L. Powell & Co. E. H. STEWART. dec2-1t

LOST AND FOUND.

LOST—BETWEEN M. L. SMITH'S store, Ponce de Leon and Fourth avenues s. w., gold watch charm with photo inclosed. Liberal reward if returned to M. L. Smith's store. jan21-1t

LOST—LEMON AND WHITE BEagle bound. Liberal reward if returned to FRANK COFFMAN, 129 Salem avenue. jan21-1wk.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS.

NOTICE.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Old Dominion Investment Company, will be held at office of said company, No. 30 Campbell street, Roanoke, Va., on Monday, February 17, 1892, at 12 m. H. L. CHILES, Sec'y. jan17-30d

NOTICE.
By order of the board of directors, a meeting of the stockholders of the Southwestern Investment and Trust Company, of Roanoke, Va., will be held at the office of the Roanoke Real Estate Company, No. 111 First street s. w., Roanoke, Va., on Monday, February 15, 1892, at 12 o'clock M. E. D. TUCKER, Secretary. jan15-30dys

NOTICE.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Buena Vista Land Company, of Roanoke, will be held at the office of the company on Tuesday, February 9, 1892, at 12 o'clock m. By order of the board of directors. jan5-1m ASA ROGERS, Sec'y

NOTICE.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of Linwood Land Company will be held at the office of the Roanoke Trust, Loan and Safe Deposit Company, Roanoke, Va., on Monday, February 8, 1892, at 12 o'clock. JAS. R. TERRY, Sec'y. jan8-30d

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE stockholders of the Roanoke Iron Company for the election of directors for the ensuing year, will be held at the office of the company in Roanoke, Va., on Monday, February 1, 1892, at 12 o'clock noon. JAMES E. PORTER, Secretary. dec31-1to-feb1

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.
A special meeting of the stockholders of the Henry Medicine Manufacturing and Land Company will be held at the store of Fox & Christian, Roanoke, Va., on the 26th day of January, 1892, at 10 o'clock a. m. A full representation is earnestly desired. R. C. STEARNES, President. CHARLES D. FOX, Secretary. dec23-1d

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.
By order of the board of directors, a meeting of the stockholders of the Glens Falls Land Company will be held at the office of F. B. Kemp, No. 8 South Jefferson street, Roanoke, at 8 o'clock p. m., Monday, February 1st, 1892. This is an important meeting, and a full attendance is requested, either in person or by proxy. C. A. WOOLFORD, President. jan1-30d WALTER McDOWELL, Secretary.

PROPOSALS FOR JAIL.

PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE office of the city clerk until noon of Jan. 23, 1892, for plans, specifications and construction of a brick jail with steel cells, combined with mayor's office and lockup, to be built on the present jail site (being the courthouse, which is 28 feet by 80 feet. Mayor's office and his court room and lockup with 15 or 20 Bessemer steel cells, on the first floor. Jailor's quarters over mayor's office to have three or four living rooms. The jail proper to have a capacity for not less than 100 prisoners and all cells outside of lockup cells to be built out of property hardened five ply steel, with proper arrangements for heating, ventilation, sewerage, light, water, bath tubs, etc., etc. Sufficient rooms for exercise in corridors, with windows so arranged as to admit ample light. The appropriation for this work is \$15,000. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids. All bids must be marked "Proposals for Jail." Address all bids to GEO. L. BENNETT, clerk of City Council. J. C. GRAVES, Chairman Public Property Committee. dec22-30d

BUSINESS NOTICES.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.
The firm of Brown, Johnston & Co., is this day dissolved by limitation. F. W. BROWN, N. B. JOHNSTON, A. R. BOWDRE.

Referring to the above notice, we announce to our friends and the public generally, that having purchased the interest of Mr. A. R. Bowdre, in the firm of Brown, Johnston & Co., we will continue the hardware business at the old stand under the firm name of BROWN & JOHNSTON, and solicit a continuance of their patronage.

All debts owing to the firm of Brown, Johnston & Co. are now due and payable only to Brown & Johnston.

Respectfully,
F. W. BROWN,
N. B. JOHNSTON.
Roanoke, Va., Dec. 31. jan15-3w

NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned have qualified as the executor and executor of the will of F. W. Allen, and all persons indebted to the said F. W. Allen are hereby notified to come forward and settle all accounts that may be due to his estate, and all persons holding claims against him are requested to present them properly verified in order that the same may be settled.

SARA McC. ALLEN,
WM. N. MORGAN.
dec30-2aw1m

FOR RENT.

We submit the following dwellings for rent:

From \$8 to \$40 per month.

20 houses in Southeast Roanoke.
17 houses in Northeast Roanoke.
12 houses in Southwest Roanoke.
15 houses in Northwest Roanoke.

Also desirable Stores, Warehouses, Offices and Desk Room.

We make a specialty of renting property, and give close attention to all the details of the business.

FOR SALE.

Houses and Lots on instalment plan.

M. H. O'MOHUNDRO & CO.,
Real Estate and Rental Agents,
jan27-1-yr 4 Jefferson street.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.

The firm of Jones & Deaton, composed of B. A. Jones and W. E. Deaton, is by mutual consent this day dissolved. W. E. Deaton has purchased B. A. Jones' interest in said firm. All debts due by said firm will be paid by, and all debts due to said firm are payable to W. E. Deaton.

B. A. JONES,
W. E. DEATON.
Roanoke, Va., Jan. 16, 1892.

I will continue business at the old stand under the name of W. E. Deaton. jan16-1m W. E. DEATON.

SEAL PRESSES, PLAIN, \$3. SELF-inking rubber stamps, from 75 cents up to \$5. Hand stamps, from 25 cents up. Self-supplying pads, 25 to 50 cents. Stamp supplies of every description, as low in price as any manufacturer in the United States. Call on or address J. T. HALL, 103 Third avenue.

EDUCATIONAL.

HOLLINS INSTITUTE, VA.—HAVING recently removed several officers and their families to new and commodious apartments, this Institute can receive a few additional pupils. They should be present on the 1st of February, the beginning of the second half session. Hollins P. O., Va. CHAS. L. COCKE, Superintendent. jan20-ea3t

HOTELS.

COMMERCIAL HOTEL, RADFORD, VA., 200 feet from Passenger Depot. H. B. OLIVER & CO., PROPRIETORS. H. B. Oliver and R. H. Tompkins, managers. Good fare, good beds and polite attention. Large sample rooms for commercial men. July25-6mo

THE SOUTHERN HOTEL.

(Formerly The Palace.)

Norfolk avenue, opposite N. & W. passenger depot and less than one square from R. & S. Remodeled and refurbished throughout. News stand, bar, cafe and billiard hall on first floor. Hot lunch at all hours, day or night. RATES: \$1.50 per day. Rooms 50 cents. This house is run on the American and European plans and is the equal of any \$2.50 house.

FRED. WEBER,
Manager. jan17-1t

ROANOKE PAPER STOCK AND METAL COMPANY.

Holliday street, near R. & S. Depot. Buy and sell hides, furs, rags, bones, beeswax, old papers, iron, brass, copper, lead, etc., etc. nov29-1-yr

Copying, enlarging, exteriors, Sidelinger's.

B. C. D.

Avoid long years of suffering by taking B. C. D.

THE BEST DYSPEPSIA CURE. Prepared by Richmond, Va., Drug Company. Sold by all druggists. 25 and 50 cents per bottle. jan2-1mo

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IT IS THE ONLY PAPER IN WHICH YOU CAN FIND ALL THE LATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT NEWS.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE.

50 CENTS PER MONTH